

Meet Judge Shorty Hochstetler



Vernon (“Shorty”) Hochstetler is the founder of Schwarzerde LLC

“We’ve been educating ourselves for over 20 years, within the teachings of some of the best Geneticists and Grazers in America and from abroad! I have had the opportunity to be mentored by people like Gearld Fry, Johanne Zeitsman, Gabe Brown, Gene Meitler, Dr. Allen Williams, Dr. Gordon Jones, Greg Palen, and many more successful ranchers too numerous to mention.

We operate a beef cattle Seed-Stock business with our farms being 100 percent grazing and/or hay production. We currently operate the cow/calf side of the business on our own farm, with the finishing cattle being contracted out onto other farms.

We supply seed-stock throughout the USA and Canada. With our satisfied customer base growing for our grass phenotype bulls, even in fescue country... the “Schwarzerde Bull Test” was launched several years ago, with the assistance of Dr. Allen Williams. This is an all-forage test with a fairly intense selection process, designed to benefit and unify our breeders’ network.

Schwarzerde LLC also has established a network of producers throughout the community as well as surrounding areas, who follow our “no grain ever” protocol, while jointly marketing the bulk of the grass finished beef through the Seven Sons Family Farm business.

My experiences would lead me to believe, that the Dr. Jan Bonsma type of cattle, tend to lead the way in being some of the most profitable cattle in the world. We practice linebreeding, and shy away from selecting for extremes while selecting for hormonally balanced cattle that are adapted to their environment. I enjoy sharing our farming experiences, and hope to help other farmers enhance their profits.”

- Vernon (“Shorty”) Hochstetler
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